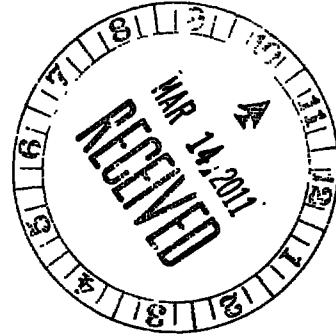




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Stearns County Parks • 1802 Co. Rd. 137
Waite Park, MN 56387 • 320/255-6172 • Fax 320/255-6177



March 3, 2011

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings
MAR 14 2011
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Public Record

Re: Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Abandonment in Stearns County in Minnesota, STB
Docket Number – AB-6 (sub-no.472x).

Dear Ms. Brown,

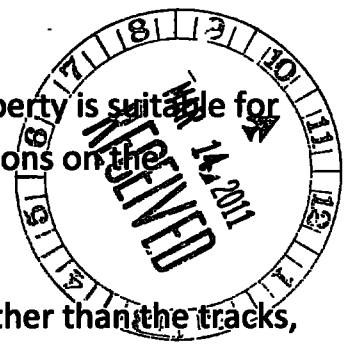
This request is filed on behalf of Stearns County which is a government agency interested in transportation, conservation and recreation, which is hereinafter referred to as 'proponent'.

While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between railroad milepost 16.2 and railroad milepost 9.2.

ROCORI STB draft 1

FILING FEE WAIVED

Public Use Condition - Proponent requests the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:



1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that this corridor would provide an excellent transportation and recreation trail and the conversion of the property to trails use is in accordance with the Stearns County Comprehensive Plan. In addition, the corridor provides important wildlife habitat and greenspace and its preservation as transportation and recreational trail is consistent with that end. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time because we need time to review title information and transportation and recreation plans and to carry out negotiations with BNSF.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles and culverts. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for transportation and recreation purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

Proponent supports the request of the ROCORI TRAIL Joint Construction Board that the above described corridor be preserved for a transportation and recreation trail.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, 2650 Lou Menk Dr., Ft. Worth TX 76161 and Northern Lines Railway 2015, 6th St. N., St. Cloud, MN 56303.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Wocken
Park Director